

# Inculcating openness at UCT: The OpenUCT Initiative

Creative Commons Africa Summit

27 and 28 June 2012

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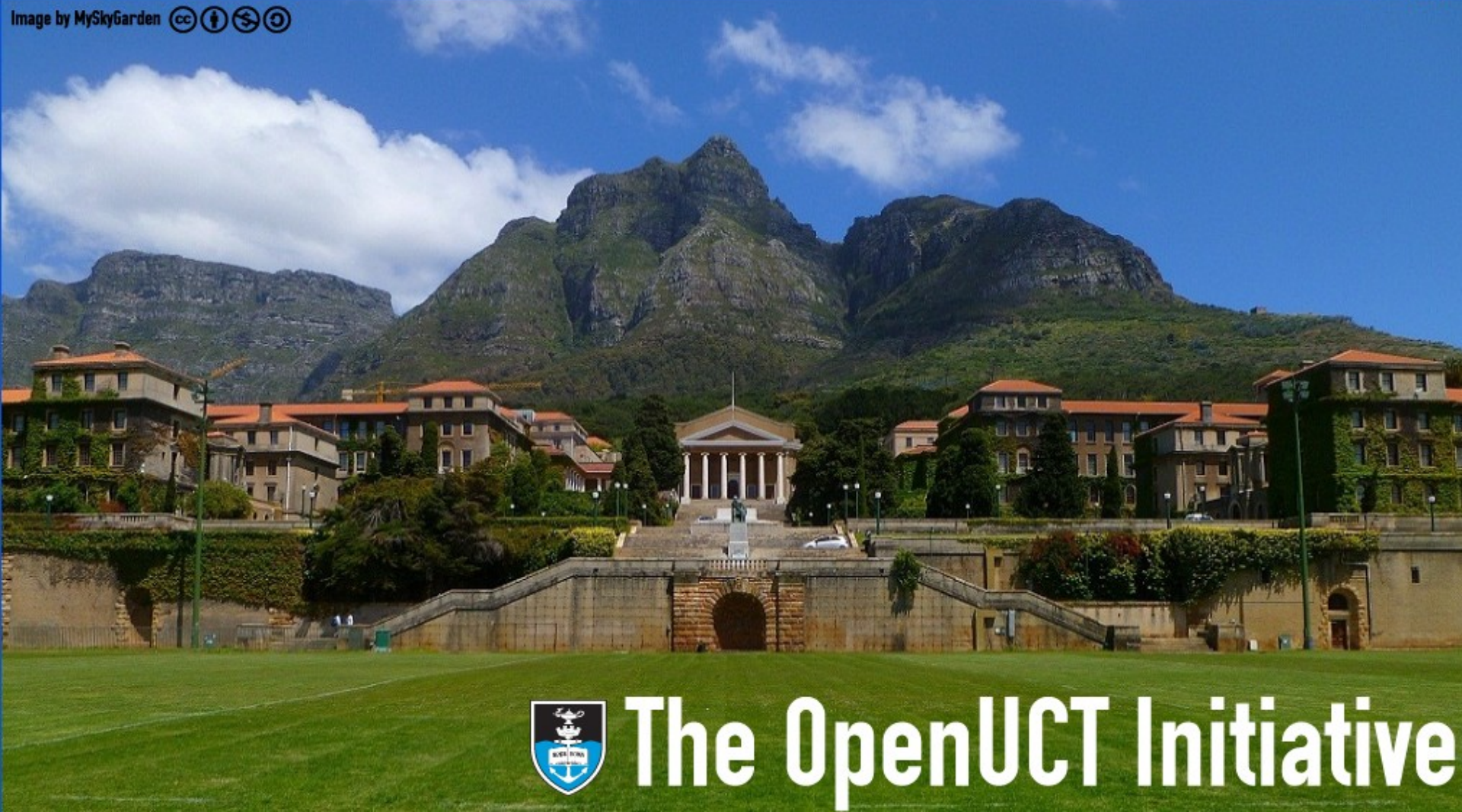
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Image by MySkyGarden 

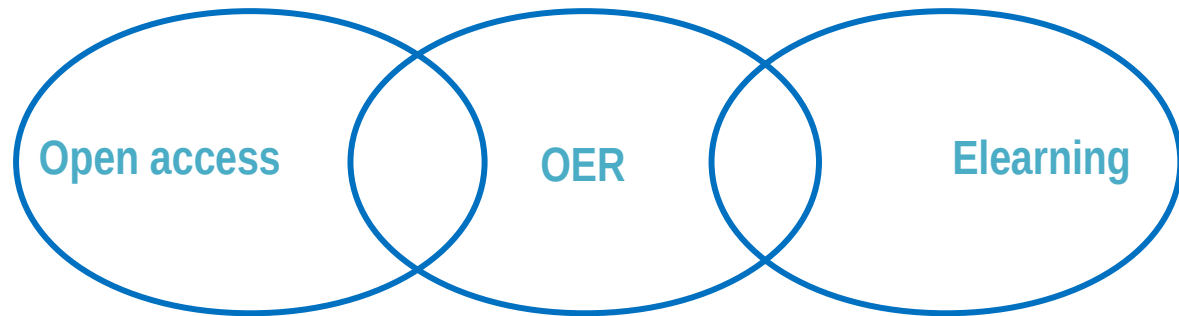


# The OpenUCT Initiative



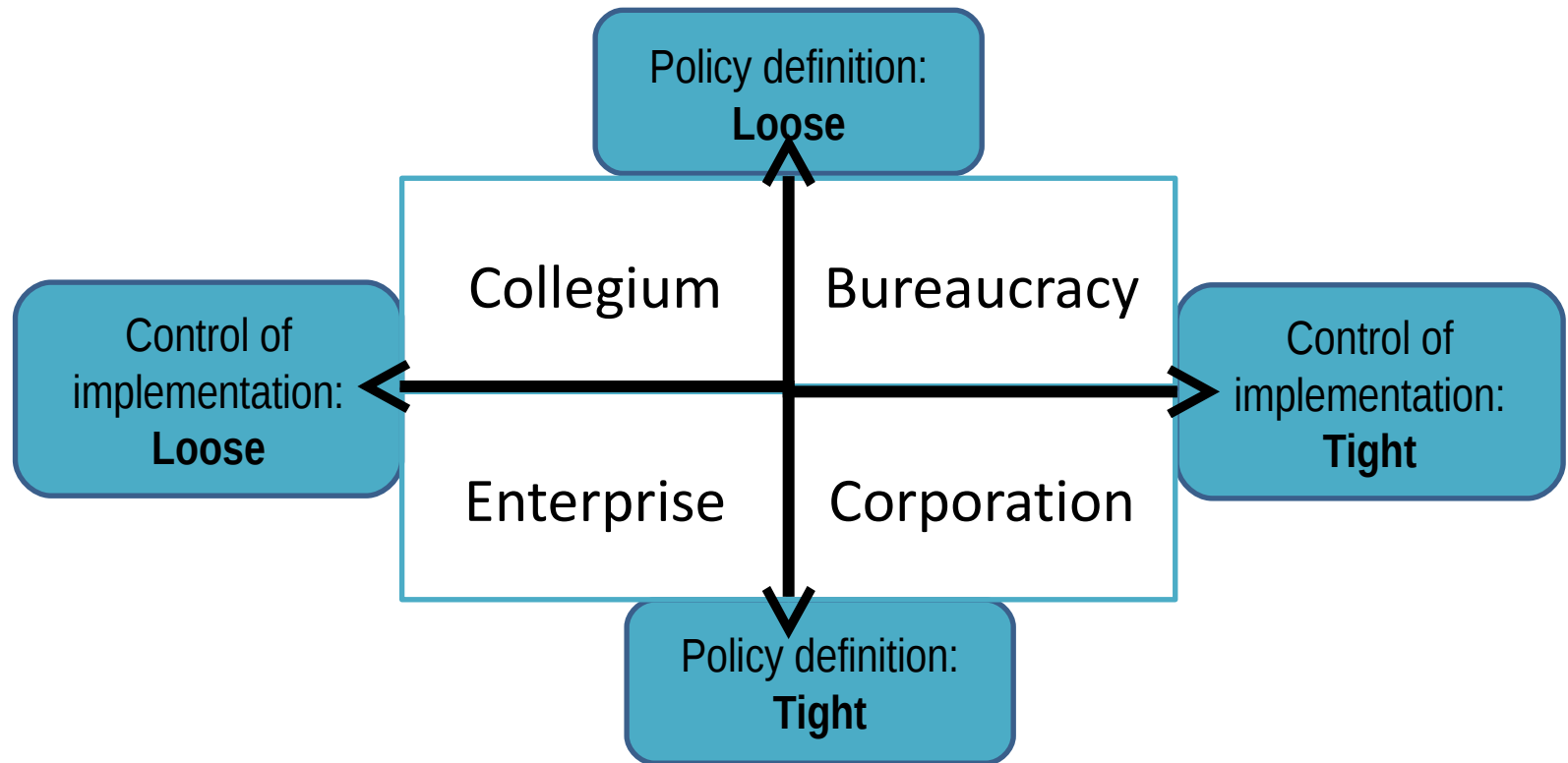
# Some premises

- OERs overlap with Open access and Elearning

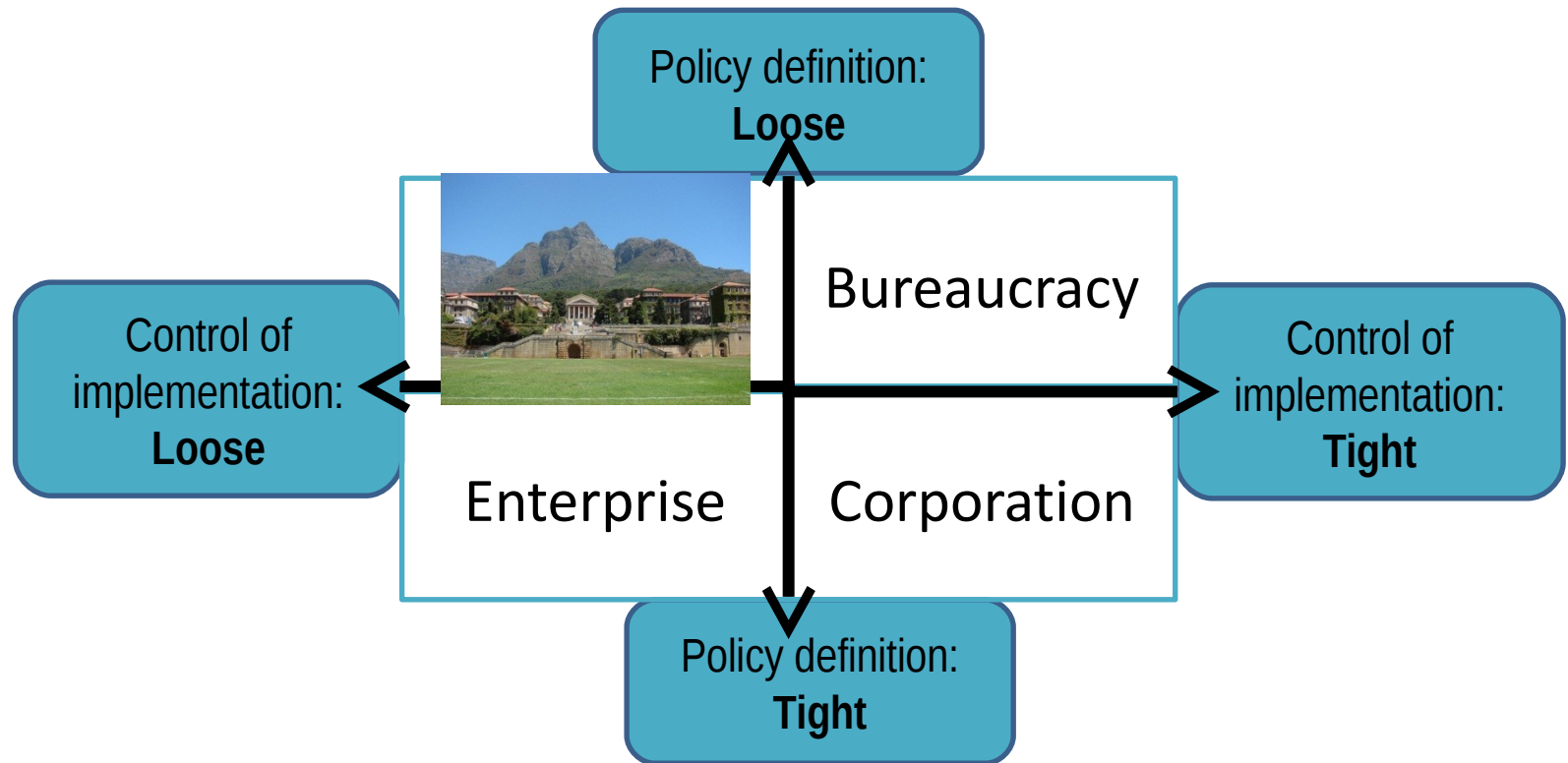


- OER part of a broader open movement
- Innovation usually starts with soft funding (external & internal)

# Institutional cultural types



# Institutional cultural types



# The collegium type

- Characterised by
  - loose institutional policy definition
  - informal networks and decision arenas
  - and innovation at the level of the individual or department. (McNay 1995)
- The organisational response
  - 'laissez faire', few targeted policies or processes (Rossiter, 2007).

# University of Cape Town

- Oldest South African university
  - Top ranked African university
  - QS World University Rankings
  - The Times Higher Education World University Rankings
  - Academic Ranking of World Universities
- Medium sized

+/- 25 000 students

982 permanent academics (of 5 442 total staff)



# Prestigious research university

- 5 Nobel Laureates
- Booker Prize winner
- Numerous internationally recognised research initiatives
  - Africa Earth Observatory Network (AEON)
  - The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics is an international centre for research in the fields of cosmology and topology.





# Teaching at UCT

- Residential
- Face to face
- Almost no distance ed
- Not set up for “non-traditional” courses
- Funding subsidy for headcount & throughput (not curriculum or content)
- Centre for Higher Educational Development active, strong academic development



# Open agenda at UCT: projects

Scholar  
↔  
Community

2007



**Opening Scholarship**

2008

2009

2010

2011

**2012**

2013

2014

**OER**  
**UCT**  
Sharing  
Educational  
Resources



UCT KNOWLEDGE CO-OP

Health OER Project



**The OpenUCT Initiative**





# UCT OpenContent

Search  Search

Sharing online resources for teaching and learning • Deelbare onderrig en leerbronne • Ukwabelana ngezixhobo zokufundisa nokufunda

## Recent posts



Introduction to Open Educational Resources 2012  
Michael Paskevicius



Adventures in Forensic Anthropology  
Professor Alan Morris



Transforming Health Systems: Case studies of critical health system analyses to support reform  
Di McIntyre & Lucy Gilson



UCT Physics Course 1 Laboratory 2nd Semester 2011  
Jeff Fearon and Angus Comrie



An Introduction To Programming With Processing  
Lyndon Daniels

All recent posts

The UCT OpenContent directory is the web portal for accessing open teaching and learning content from the University of Cape Town. [Read More](#)



## Popular resources

Open Teaching in a Digital Age  
NGO ICT and e-Readiness Self-Assessment Tool  
Building a global teaching profile: OER at UCT  
A Manual of Online Molecular Biology Techniques  
Facilitating Online



## Faculties

Centre for Higher Education Development  
Commerce  
Engineering and the Built Environment  
Health Sciences  
Humanities  
Law  
Science



## Tags

apartheid South Africa  
libraries Democracy Egypt  
south africa public  
GIPCA physics  
diversity climate

[more tags](#)



The Creature from Planet X: an...  
Professor Alan Morris



Not Naming Race: Some medical students...  
Zimitri Erasmus, Jacques de Wet



'A developmental state': The challenge...  
Various speakers

# **Our approach to the openness agenda in the light of UCT's culture**

# Strategic approaches

- Individual agency/ control
- Maximum flexibility
- Network / community building
- Enabling (not requiring)
- Champions at different levels

Collegium culture:  
loose institutional policy definition  
informal networks and decision arenas  
and innovation at the level of the individual or department.  
(McNay 1995)

# Historically

- Opportunities for open agenda in the eLearning space (CHED)(rather than OA )
  - Contributed to change strategy
- No institutional repository





# Multiplicity

- **Multiple** strategies
- Many small sites of innovation and activity, aiming for **agglomeration** across the institution, to achieve critical mass
- Change at **all levels** of the university
- Develop networks and build **community**

# Champions

- At senior level
  - DVC signs Cape Town Declaration (2008)
  - VC signs Berlin Declaration (2011)

## UCT signs Cape Town Open Education Declaration

Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Martin Hall and other prominent members of academia gathered on 8 April to sign the Cape Town Open Education Declaration.

The declaration is a groundbreaking initiative that aims to promote open resources, technology and teaching practices in education. Drafted in January 2008, the declaration springs from a meeting convened by the Shuttleworth Foundation and the Open Society Institute in Cape Town in September 2007, attended by UCT's Eve Gray and Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams of the Centre for Educational Technology.

While informal sharing of resources takes place in South African universities, there is as yet no formal system for making local open-educational resources available.

Speaking at the signing, Hall said that the freedoms of the internet must



Openness: Prof Martin Hall was one of those who signed the Cape Town Open Declaration, which aims to use the internet to make knowledge more freely available.

be protected, or else knowledge will become a heavily-priced commodity.

"The commercialisation of intellectual property presents difficult challenges for a university," he said. "Uni-

versities thrive on making knowledge freely available and the Cape Town Open Education Declaration establishes important principles for ensuring that this happens."





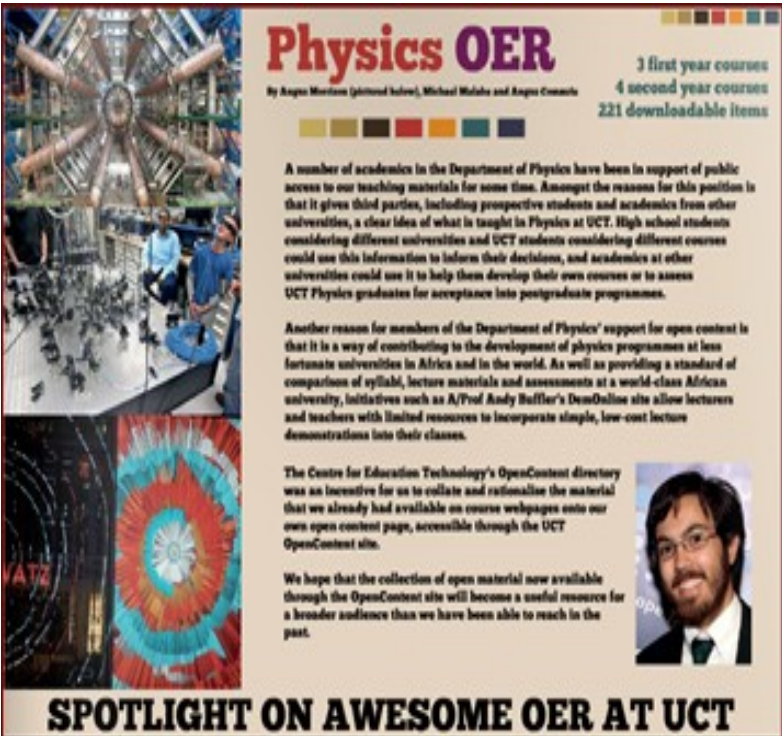
# Champions

- Senior & middle level
- OER Health Sciences - Dean



# Champions

- Bringing the work of “early adopters” above the radar



**Physics OER**  
By Angus Morrison (Glennwood School), Michael Malahe and Angus Christie

3 first year courses  
4 second year courses  
221 downloadable items

A number of academics in the Department of Physics have been in support of public access to our teaching materials for some time. Amongst the reasons for this position is that it gives third parties, including prospective students and academics from other universities, a clear idea of what is taught in Physics at UCT. High school students considering different universities and UCT students considering different courses could use this information to inform their decisions, and academics at other universities could use it to help them develop their own courses or to assess UCT Physics graduates for acceptance into postgraduate programmes.

Another reason for members of the Department of Physics' support for open content is that it is a way of contributing to the development of physics programmes at less fortunate universities in Africa and in the world. As well as providing a standard of comparison of syllabi, lecture materials and assessments at a world-class African university, initiatives such as A/Prof Andy Buffler's DemOnline site allow lecturers and teachers with limited resources to incorporate simple, low-cost lecture demonstrations into their classes.

The Centre for Education Technology's OpenContent directory was an incentive for us to collate and rationalise the material that we already had available on course webpages onto our own open content page, accessible through the UCT OpenContent site.

We hope that the collection of open material now available through the OpenContent site will become a useful resource for a broader audience than we have been able to reach in the past.

**SPOTLIGHT ON AWESOME OER AT UCT**

### Isaac Newton and his enemies

★★★★★  
No votes yet

by Professor David Wolfe  
Added by UCT Summer School on 5 Dec 2011

[Read more](#) ⓘ

- Centre for Higher Education Development, Centre for Open Learning

### PHY1004W - Matter & Interactions

★★★★★  
Average: 4.8 (5 votes)

by Andy Buffler, Roger Fearick, Indresan Govender, Andre Peshier  
Added by ANGUS MORRISON on 3 Dec 2010

[Read more](#) ⓘ

MODERN MECHANICS: Matter and interactions, conservation laws, the momentum principle, atomic nature of matter, conservation of energy, energy in macroscopic systems, energy quantization, multipati

- Physics, Science

### DemOnline

★★★★★  
Average: 4.5 (2 votes)

by Andy Buffler, Michael Malahe  
Added by ANGUS MORRISON on 3 Dec 2010

[Read more](#) ⓘ

The website catalogues both lecture demonstrations and VPython scripts.

- Physics, Science

# Champions & change

- In our experience of our cultural context
  - Senior level support symbolic
  - Vertical relationships do not cause change *per se*, only when actual projects in place (eg HS)
  - Champions work best in horizontal networked relationships, building communities of practice
- New roles and reconfigurations
  - The rise of the non-specialist “expert.” (or




# Incentives: small grants



- 9 small grants in 2011
- £ 800 each
- Health Science, Engineering, Law, CHED, Science
- To create and/ or adapt OER
- From course level to smaller resources



# Incentives: small grants

A night sky with a large, colorful, textured circle on the left, a handwritten sign in the center, and a silhouette of a person on the right. The sign reads: "Join the global open movement and share your knowledge".

**The OPENUCT Initiative is offering grants of up to R10 000 for staff AND STUDENTS to develop or adapt teaching materials for sharing as Open Educational Resources in the OpenContent directory**

**Deadline: 20 April 2012 For more details go to: <http://openuct.uct.ac.za/openuct-grants>**



# Academic agency

- Decentralised uploading
  - Individual academics upload and maintain their resources directly
- Pride of authorship
  - Quality assurance with the individual
  - Quality assurance part of broader teaching and learning systems, not separate
- Minimal moderation

Copyright compliance



# Flexibility

- Granularisation of resources important
- Whole courses
- Single resources
  - Ebooks
  - Presentations
  - Podcasts
  - Lecture notes
  - Animations

# Institutional Community

- IP Law Unit
- Knowledge Co-op
- Citizen Science projects in COL
- Enterprise Content Management Project
- Eresearch
- Library
- Communications Office



Faculties





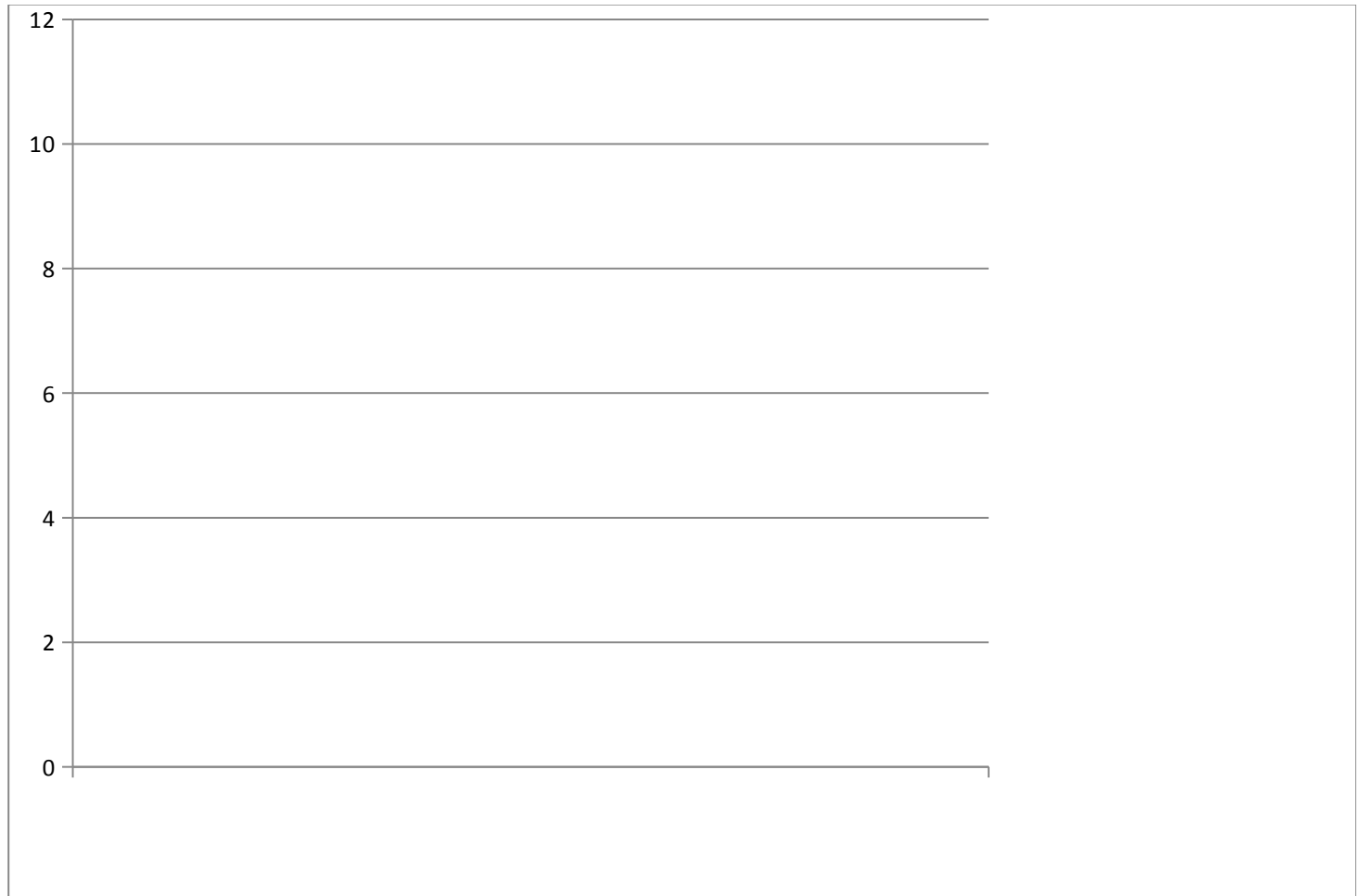
# New IP policy

- Work enabled by new UCT IP Policy
  - Specifically addresses issues relating to the creation of OER resources and the licensing processes to be followed
  - Expressly states the support for publication of materials under Creative Commons licenses

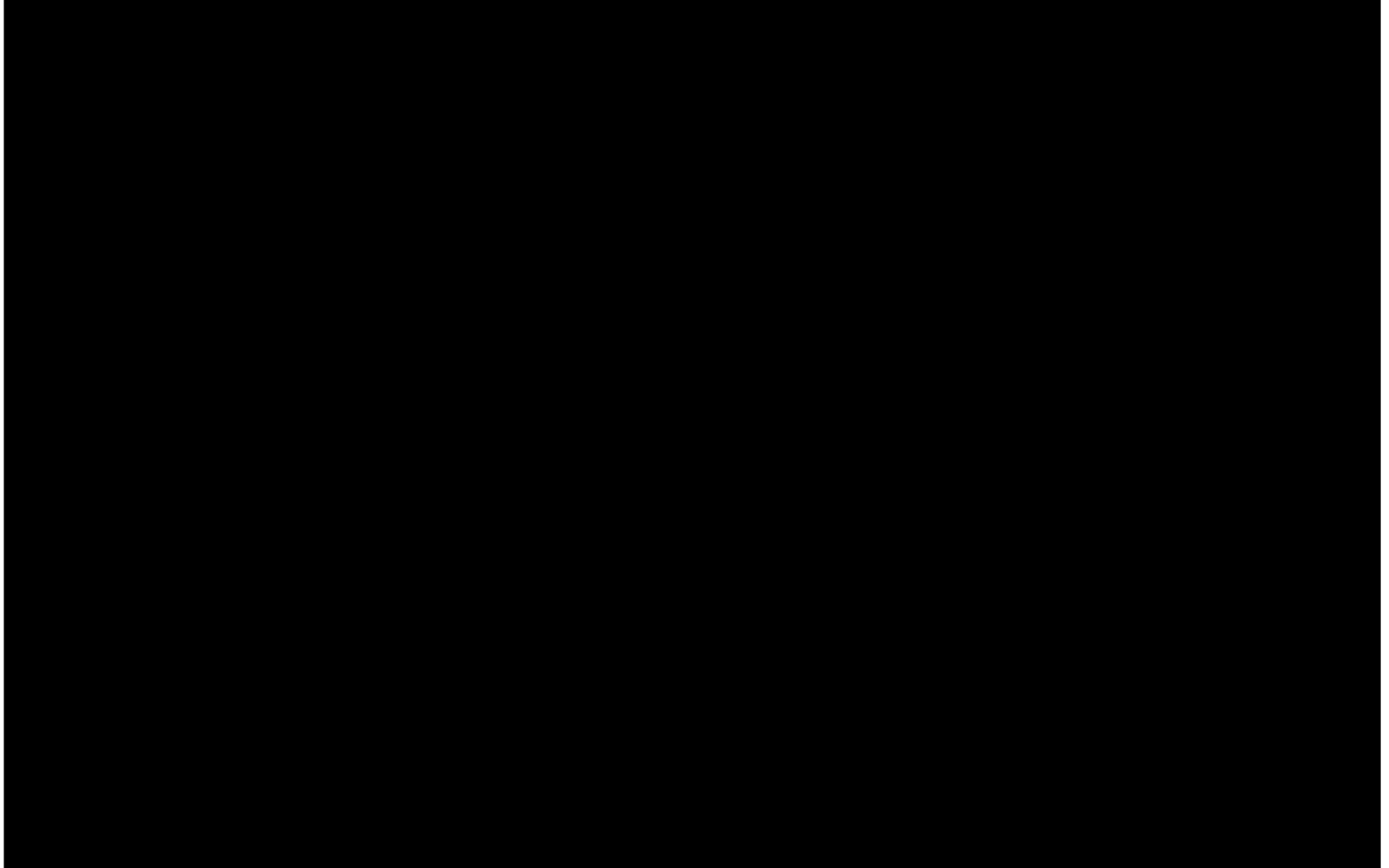
# **How we are doing**

## **in terms of institutional participation**

# Growth to date

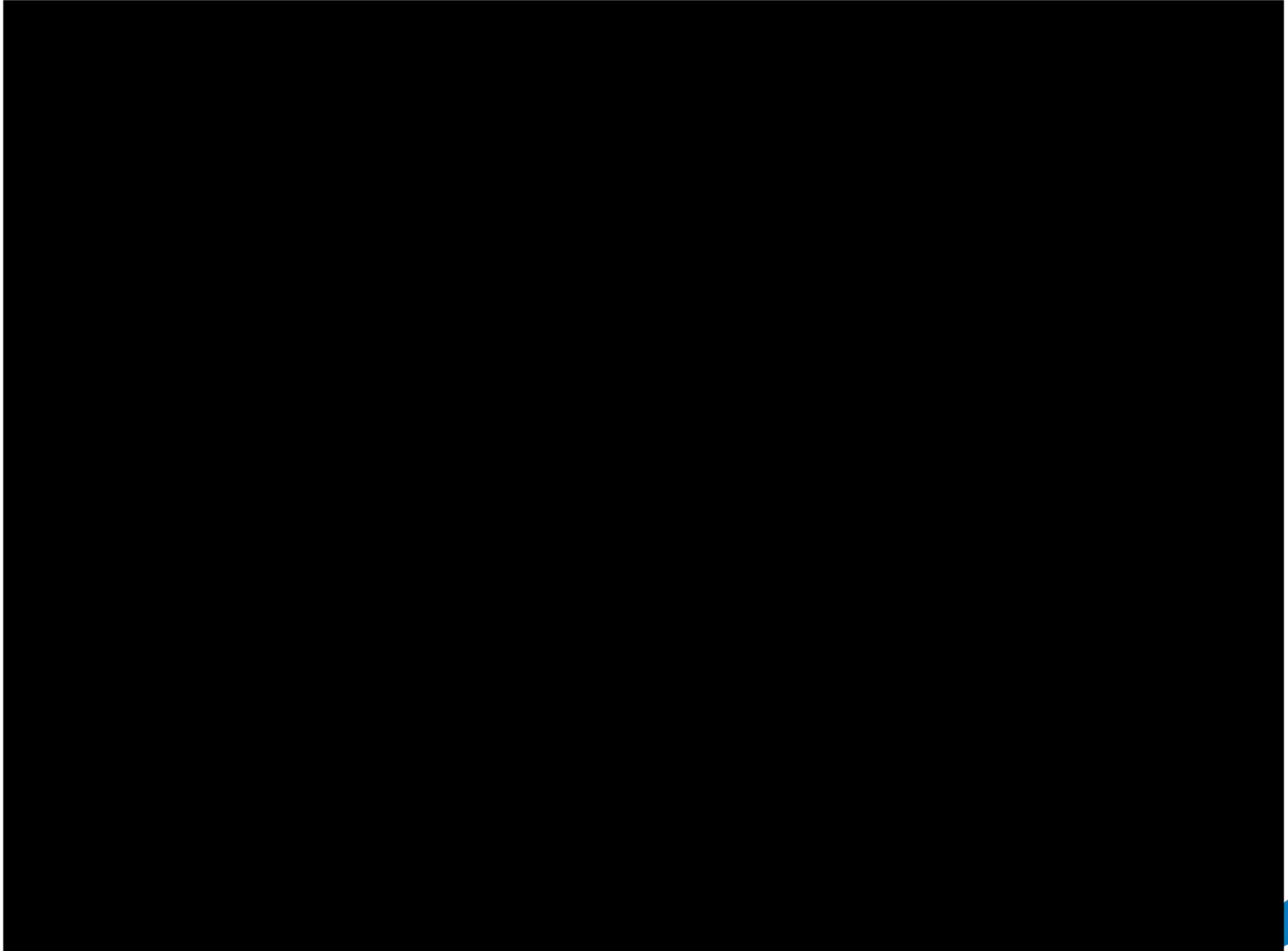


# Faculty contributions



Faculty contributions February 2010- March 2012

# Types of resources



# Concluding comments

- A steady upswell rather than mainstream
- Integration of resourcing requirements into existing structures
- Acceptance of non-linear organic process
- Slow approach more likely to be sustainable & effective
- A research-based approach to inform strategy

# References

- Czerniewicz, L and Brown, C (2009) study of the relationship between institutional policy, organisational culture and e-learning use in four South African universities in *Computers & Education* 53 (2009) 121–131
- McNay, I (1995) From collegial academy to corporate enterprise: The changing cultures of universities. In T. Schuller (Ed.), *The Changing University*. Buckingham: Society for Research into Higher Education and Open University



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**OpenContent Directory:** <http://opencontent.uct.ac.za>

**Companion site on Vula:** <https://vula.uct.ac.za/portal/site/openuct>

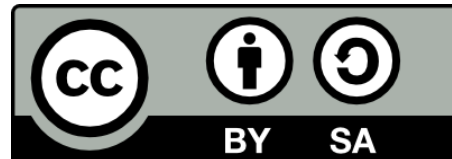
**OER UCT project blog:** <http://blogs.uct.ac.za/blog/oer-uct>

**OpenUCT Initiative:** <http://openuct.uct.ac.za/>

**OpeningScholarship :** <http://openingscholarship.uct.ac.za/>

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